

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 077672
ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 R

DRAFTED BY COM/BIC/CAGNE/MFSMITH:DJW
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NEA/IRN: RWBEALES

-----081858Z 121454 /43

R 071502Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS STATE 077672

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, IR

SUBJECT: U.S.-IRAN TRADE STATISTICS

1. BUCENSUS REPORT (FT 990) COVERING FEBRUARY 1977 SHOWS COMMODITY EXPORTS TO IRAN, INCLUDING SPECIAL CATEGORY, RUNNING CONSIDERABLY BELOW LAST YEAR'S LEVEL. TWO-MONTH (JAN/FEB) TOTAL THIS YEAR IS 356.6 MILLION DOLS, COMPARED WITH 552.5 MILLION DOLS YEAR AGO, ALMOST A ONE-THIRD DROP.

2. COMMERCE AND STATE CONCERNED THAT DROP OF THIS MAGNITUDE CANNOT BE ATTRIBUTED ENTIRELY TO REDUCED LEVEL OF IRANIAN IMPORTS IN GENERAL AND THAT IT MAY REFLECT EROSION OF U.S. MARKET SHARE FIRST SET IN MOTION LATTER PART OF 1976. REPORTS OF RECENTLY STEPPED-UP COMMERCIAL EFFORTS ON PART OF OTHER MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS, PARTICULARLY FRENCH, ADD TO OUR CONCERN. WHILE OBVIOUSLY DIFFICULT TO FORETELL WHAT LIES IN MONTHS AHEAD, IT APPEARS ON BASIS OF FIGURES TO DATE THAT INTENSIFIED GROWTH IN TRADE BETWEEN U.S. AND IRAN

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PAGE 02 STATE 077672

SIMPLY IS NOT MATERIALIZING, WHATEVER MAY BE THE REASON. DIFFICULT AT THIS POINT TO SEE HOW ACTUAL RESULTS WILL COME ANYWHERE CLOSE TO THE 26 BILLION DOLS TARGET FOR NON-OIL, TWO-WAY TRADE DURING FIVE-YEAR PERIOD 1975-80 (ANNOUNCED IN TEHRAN LAST AUGUST), UNLESS CURRENT

TREND IS REVERSED SOON.

3. EMBASSY COMMENTS WOULD BE WELCOME.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: BEXP, IR
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